with marketing, combine crop production with animal husbandry, fisheries and other remunerative farm and non-farm enterprises, all aimed at increasing production to keep India self sufficient in food production.

Crisis in FACT

1582. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector fertilizer companies including FACT are encountering serious problems due to price hike and non-availability of sufficent quanity of raw materials like Sulphur;

(b) whether it is also a fact that various units of FACT are either closed or on the verge of shut down owing to the above reasons;

(c) whether Government has taken/proposed to take comprehensive measures to overcome the crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) FACT had been facing financial problems in the last few months due to steep increase in the prices and non-availability of sufficient quanity of raw materials like Sulphur and Phosphoric acid. The caprolactam plant and ammonium sulphate plant had to be closed temporarily. To compensate the losses of the company and to sustain its operations, Government has approved a one time grant of Rs.200 crore to FACT. The amount is being released to the company.

Demands of Bhopal tragedy victims

1583. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the Bhopal gas survivors' 850 km. padyatra from Bhopal to Delhi started in February, 2008;

(b) what progress has been made by Government in meeting the demands after their 1st Padyatra in 2006;

(c) the details of plans, to pin liability on Union Carbide Corporation for the contamination of groundwater and land in and around the factory site in Bhopal;

(d) the steps taken by CBI to extradite former Union Carbide Chairman Warren Anderson to face trial in India; and

(e) the steps taken by CBI to enforce Union Carbide Corporation's appearance in the criminal case in the Bhopal Chief Judical Magistrate's court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Based on the sanction by the Government of India in April, 2006 for a project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, the State Government of Madhya